

Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program

Recognizing the critical role
that *pro bono publico* plays in
maintaining a vibrant justice
system in Maine.

Recognition Year 2013



2013 Katahdin Counsel Recognition Events:

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| Oct. 7th | Penobscot Judicial Center,
Bangor |
| Oct. 16th | Washington County Superior
Court, Machias |
| Oct. 28th | Three (3) events at the
Androscoggin Superior Court,
Auburn, the Kennebec
Superior Court, Augusta &
the York Superior Court,
Alfred |
| Oct. 31st | Maine Supreme Judicial Court,
Portland |

Maine lawyers are among the most generous in the nation in donating their time to pro bono representation for people who cannot afford an attorney and by donating money to support legal aid. The purpose of the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program is twofold. First, to establish an annual process for recognizing and honoring the pro bono work of Maine's lawyers. Second, to encourage more lawyers to provide such services for Maine's low-income residents to help to meet their growing unmet legal needs.

As Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley has stated in her 2011 announcement of the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program, "Maine lawyers need simply to certify when they have personally completed 50 or more pro bono in a year. They will then receive the acknowledgement and gratitude of the Supreme Judicial Court... We anticipate that the identification of an attorney as receiving the Katahdin Counsel designation will bring better recognition and public attention to the good work of Maine lawyers."

Lawyers providing free legal work for the public good...

Currently, the need for *pro bono* services from the private Bar is a necessity, as funding for legal services continues to diminish nationwide. In Maine, legal services organizations are able to represent a fraction of the low-income people who qualify for assistance with civil cases. These cases involve basic human needs such as safety, benefits, housing, health care, and child custody.





142 attorneys – 16,000 *pro bono* hours

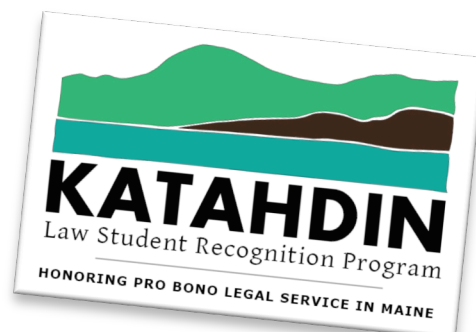
Over \$2.4 million in free legal assistance to Mainers this year.

This year, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court will honor **142 attorneys** participating in the Katahdin Counsel Recognition Program, and 3 individuals participating in the inaugural year of the Katahdin Law Student Recognition Program. Collectively, these volunteers have provided over **16,000 hours** of pro bono service for their communities. At a conservative estimate of \$150/hour, this represents approximately **\$2.4 million in free legal assistance**.

The purpose of the Katahdin Counsel program, the Katahdin Law Student program, and the corresponding recognition events, is to bring public attention to the important role of pro bono legal service in maintaining the civil justice system, and to honor attorneys and law students who have provided 50 or more hours of service during the past year. Six Katahdin Recognition Events were held in Bangor, Machias, Alfred, Augusta, Auburn, and Portland during the month of October to recognize participating attorneys and law students for this outstanding achievement.

Attorneys and law students are invited to participate in this program each year. Participation is voluntary, and based on the self-reporting of 50 or more hours of pro bono service during the time period July 1 through June 30 of the corresponding year. For more information please visit the Court's [website](#).

2013 Katahdin Law Students:
Katherine Malia, Kimberly Watson & Michael O'Brien



Maine Supreme Court Justices Jon Levy, Ellen Gorman, and Chief Justice Leigh Saufley pictured with the 2013 Katahdin Law Students.